

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for a distributed build comprising:

a first computer maintaining a list of jobs, each of said jobs having an operation associated with creation of an installed software image; and

a second computer accepting one of the jobs from the first computer and executing the accepted job by performing the operation associated therewith,

wherein the second computer in response to accepting one of the jobs creates the installed software image by configuring and imaging software and delivers the created image to the first computer.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the operation comprises installing, configuring, and imaging the software image.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a master computer through which the second computer accepts one of the jobs from the first computer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method in a distributed build environment in which one or more first computers delegate creation of a software image to a second computer, said method performed by the second computer comprising:

accepting a job from one of the first computers, said job having an operation associated with creation of an installed software image; ~~and~~

completing the accepted job by performing the operation, wherein the completed job represents the installed software image; and

creating the installed software image after completed the accepted job.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the installed software image is ready for deployment.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising requesting the job from one of the first computers.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein accepting comprises receiving the job assigned by one of the first computers.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising configuring the installed software image.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the second computer executes a minimal operating system.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein accepting comprises:
communicating with each of the first computers in succession to identify a plurality of jobs associated with the first computer; and
selecting a first one of the plurality of jobs identified while communicating.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein each of the first computers stores a list of the jobs in a specific file associated with the first computer, and wherein communicating comprises accessing the specific file on each of the first computers to identify the jobs.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 12, further comprising determining a status for each of the jobs on each of the first computers by searching for a job status file associated with each of the jobs and stored on the first computer.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the absence of the job status file indicates availability of the job.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of jobs has a priority corresponding thereto.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of jobs is organized in a list according to the priority corresponding thereto.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein accepting comprises creating a file associated with a particular job to indicate that the particular job is being completed.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the created file is stored on the second computer.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising providing credentials to the first computer for authentication during said creating.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein completing comprises executing a script associated with the job.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting the installed software image to said one of the first computers from which the job was accepted.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising downloading instructions for completing the job accepted from said one of the first computers.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 23, wherein the instructions comprise software components for use in completing the job accepted said one of the first computers.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the installed software image represents one or more of an operating system and an application program.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 6.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method in a distributed build environment in which a first computer delegates installation of a software image to one or more second computers, said method performed by the first computer comprising maintaining a list of jobs, each of said jobs being related to creation of an installed software image, wherein each of the second computers selects one or more of the jobs, [[and]] performs the selected jobs, and creates the installed software image after performing the selected jobs.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein the list comprises jobs selected by the second computers.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein maintaining comprises organizing the jobs in the list according to user input.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising dynamically creating the list.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein maintaining comprises creating a file defining the list of jobs.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein the list comprises one or more of the following: jobs available for selection, selected jobs, and performed jobs.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising posting the maintained list as a network resource accessible by the second computers.

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the network resource comprises a storage medium.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein maintaining comprises adding jobs to the list.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein maintaining comprises:
receiving from one of the second computers the created software installation
corresponding to one of the jobs selected and performed by the second computer; and
removing the job from the list.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the received software installation has been configured by the second computer.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein the software installation comprises at least one of an operating system and an application program.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein each of the jobs is completed by only one of the second computers.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein maintaining comprises identifying one or more of the jobs selected by the second computers that fail to be completed within a specific time period.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 40, wherein maintaining further comprises removing the identified jobs from the list.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising specifying a time period for the second computers to complete each of the jobs in the list.

Claim 43 (original): The method of claim 42, further comprising reclaiming from the second computers one or more of the jobs selected by the second computers if the one or more jobs have not been completed by the second computers within the specific time period.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 27.

Claim 45 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ One or more computer-readable media having a data structure stored thereon, wherein said data structure being used in a distributed build environment in which a first computer delegates creation of an installed software image to a second computer, said data structure representing a status associated with installation of the software image, said data structure comprising:

- an identifier associated with the second computer; and
- a descriptor indicating the status of the installation performed by the second computer as identified by the identifier.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, wherein the data structure is stored on the first computer.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, wherein the installed software image comprises one or more of an operating system and an application program.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, wherein the descriptor indicates a completion status of the installation.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, wherein the second computer configures the installed software image.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, wherein the first computer accesses the data structure to determine the status.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The computer-readable media ~~data structure~~ of claim 45, further comprising:

- a server path associated with the first computer; and

a credential associated with the identifier and the server path for authentication during communication between the first computer and second computer, wherein the second computer communicates with the first computer via the identifier, credential, and server path to indicate to the first computer that the second computer is performing operations associated with the installation.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The computer-readable media data structure of claim 51, wherein the server path comprises a network address.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The computer-readable media data structure of claim 51, wherein the server path and credential are stored on the second computer.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having a data structure stored thereon, said data structure being used in a distributed build environment in which a first computer delegates creation of an installed software image to a second computer, said data structure being stored on the first computer, said data structure representing one or more jobs, said data structure comprising:

- a job identifier associated with each of the jobs; and
- a script defining a plurality of operations associated with the job identifier to be performed by the second computer to create an installed software image.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium data structure of claim 54, wherein each of the jobs has a priority corresponding thereto, and wherein each of the jobs is organized in the data structure according to the priority corresponding thereto.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium data structure of claim 54, wherein the script further defines operations to configure the installed software image.

Claim 57 (currently amended): A system for a distributed build in which a first computer delegates creation of an installed software image to a second computer, said system comprising:

a list means for the first computer to maintain a list of jobs, each of said jobs being related to creation of an installed software image;

an interface means for the second computer to accept one of the jobs maintained by the first computer via the list means, said job having an operation associated with the creation of an installed software image; and

an install means for the second computer to complete the job accepted via the interface means by performing the operation, wherein the completed job represents the installed software image, and wherein the install means creates the installed software image after the install means completes the job.

Claim 58 (original): The system of claim 57, further comprising means for the second computer to configure the installed software image.